

## How long will it take?

Once the VCP receives your application, it may take 90 days or more for you to receive an award. Processing time may be reduced significantly if all appropriate reports, bills, or receipts are attached.

## Emergency Awards

You may receive an Emergency Award as an advance if the time to complete the regular application would cause a substantial hardship.

Emergency Awards are usually processed within 30 days.

## Filing assistance

Victim/Witness Assistance Centers in every county have trained staff to assist victims in applying for compensation under the VCP. The district attorney's office or law enforcement agency in your county (see the white *Government Pages* of your local telephone directory) may refer you to the nearest Victim/Witness Assistance Center or you may call the Victims of Crime Resource Center at 1-800-VICTIMS (1-800-842-8467).

Note: The law allows the VCP to pay up to \$500 for an attorney to assist you in the application process. Attorney fees are not subtracted from your payment. The law prohibits attorneys from charging, demanding, receiving, or collecting any amount for their services, except that paid by the VCP. You do not need a lawyer or other representative in order to receive compensation from the VCP.

## More information

# 1-800-777-9229

Hearing impaired, please call  
the California Relay Service at

**1-800-735-2929**

All Languages Accommodated  
[www.boc.ca.gov](http://www.boc.ca.gov)

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# General Information Victim Compensation Program



Note: This brochure is intended to provide general information *only*. It does not include all of the requirements of the Victim Compensation Program. **Revised June 2003**



## Dear Californians:

No one deserves to suffer from the physical, emotional, and financial costs of being a crime victim.

If you have been a victim of a crime, the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board and its network of victim advocates and providers throughout the state can help you recover financially. This program is funded from fines and fees paid by offenders, not California taxpayers.

Please use this brochure to learn about this important program or contact the Board at **1-800-777-9229** for more information.

Sincerely,

  
GRAY DAVIS  
Governor of California

## Who is eligible?

A person who suffers a physical injury or the threat of physical injury as a direct result of a crime in California. A California resident who suffers a physical injury or the threat of physical injury as a direct result of crime or terrorism wherever it takes place.

### Residents of the United States who are:

Parents, siblings, spouses, children, grandparents, grandchildren of persons who suffer an injury or are threatened with injury during a crime or die as a result of a crime may be eligible.

A person living in the victim's household at the time of the crime or who had lived with the victim for at least two years in a relationship similar to the above.

Another family member of the victim, including the victim's fiancé(e), if he or she witnessed the crime.

Someone who becomes the primary caretaker of a minor victim after the crime.

Note: Any of these individuals who are not residents of the United States may be eligible for outpatient mental health counseling for crimes occurring in California.

## What losses may be paid?

- ☐ Medical/dental expenses for the victim
- ☐ Mental health treatment or counseling
- ☐ Wage or income loss
- ☐ Financial support loss for dependents of a deceased or disabled victim
- ☐ Funeral and/or burial expenses
- ☐ Job retraining for a disabled victim
- ☐ Home or vehicle renovation or retrofitting for a victim permanently disabled as a direct result of the crime

- ☐ Home security installation or improvements
- ☐ Moving/relocation expenses
- ☐ Crime-scene cleanup for homicides that occurred in a residence

The Victim Compensation Program (VCP) may pay bills only for expenses due to the crime and that are not covered by insurance or other sources. The VCP does not pay for lost, damaged, or stolen property or for pain and suffering. The maximum amount that can be paid may vary, and certain restrictions apply. Contact VCP staff for information on covered services and maximum reimbursement rates.

## General requirements

You must cooperate reasonably with law enforcement and court officials to arrest and prosecute the offender.

You must cooperate with the VCP or its representative(s) to verify your application.

You cannot have participated in the crime.

You must first submit your expenses to your insurance company, HMO, Medi-Cal, or other insurance plan.

## How do I apply?

You must file a VCP application generally within one year from the crime (or later, if good cause for the delay can be shown).

For a victim who was under age 18 on the date of the crime, an application must be filed before the victim's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday (or later, if good cause for the delay can be shown).